

# **Arizona Coordinated Resource Management Plan Guidance**

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A Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is required anytime Arizona NRCS Conservation Planners are assisting a client develop a conservation plan for a ranch that includes state, and/or federally managed lands within the boundaries of the ranching operation. A Coordinated Resource Management Plan involving a tribal authority and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) may also be necessary in certain instances on tribal lands.

Note: Federal lands are the responsibility of the appropriate federal agency and are not inventoried, planned or monitored by the NRCS unless the planning process is done with a representative of the federal agency (180 GM-Part 409.4AZ). Technical assistance to Federal agencies that will require a significant amount of NRCS resources will be based on an agreement that provides for reimbursement of NRCS services (440 M-Part 525.22).

The following information will serve to guide Arizona NRCS Conservation Planners in the development of Coordinated Resource Management Plans. This document is meant to provide guidance on the format and the information that will be included in the CRMP document.

## **Coordinated Resource Management Plan**

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### **Ranch/Allotment Name**

- Include common names the ranch is known by

### **Coordinated Plan Participants**

Examples:

- Arizona CRM Field Group
- Rancher or Land User
- Conservation District
- Forest Service Ranger District
- Bureau of Land Management Area Office
- Arizona State Land Department Resource Area
- NRCS Field Office
- FSA County Office
- Arizona Game and Fish
- USFWS
- Others

### **Description of Ranch and Location**

- Provide ranch/permit location information and permit/lease numbers.
- Briefly describe the ranching operation (cow-calf, stocker, etc.)
- Provide any other information that the CRMP participants felt was important during the planning process.

## Land Status

Ownership	Acres	Permit/Lease #
Private Controlled		
Private Uncontrolled		
BLM		
Forest Service		
State Trust		
Tribal		
Other		

## Benchmark Condition

- Identify and discuss all resource concerns identified during the ranch/allotment inventory.
- Reference documentation source for resource concerns.
- List resource issues and causal factors if known for current resource conditions i.e. historical or current use.

## Goals

List the environmental, economic and social goals of the plan. Examples include:

- Maintain or improve species composition, diversity and structure for the desired plant communities needed to protect the land and support the planned land uses i.e. Federal Agency Resource Management Plan constraints.
- Provide adequate vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent accelerated erosion, prevent excess runoff, and provide adequate cover for wildlife.
- Maintain the long-term health and diversity of wildlife populations.
- Maintain a self sustaining economically feasible ranching operation.

## Objectives

List the tasks planned to achieve the desired goals which are measurable, feasible and reasonable. Where appropriate include an estimated time-frame. Examples include:

- With the use of Adaptive Management, implement prescribed grazing to provide grazing and rest periods in each pasture that will allow grazed plants to re-grow, regain vigor, produce seed and establish new plants, when climatic conditions are favorable.
- Install fencing and additional water developments to control timing and distribution of livestock grazing.

## Alternatives

- Identify any alternative management actions considered during the planning process and briefly discuss why they were not selected. The description should be a short narrative format without much detail.

## Plan/Schedule of Improvements

- Each Land Management agency is responsible for their regulatory requirements for project planning and implementation.
- List and described the structural conservation practices, vegetative improvements, and/or other management activities that will be implemented as part of the coordinated plan.
- Include who is responsible for design, environmental clearances, practice certification
- Include agreed to date for completion
- Include who will fund and install the practices
- Include maintenance responsibility
- Briefly discuss how the plan/schedule of operations will obtain the desired benefits.
- Where appropriate correlate NRCS contract item number with agency practice improvement identifier or name.

## Planned Practices

Show planned locations of structural practices on plan map

Practice	Amount	Year	Pasture and/or location (T, R, Sec)	Land Ownership
Prescribed Grazing (ac.)				
Fence (ft.)				
Pipeline (ft.)				
Spring Development (no.)				
Pond (no., ac ft.)				
Structure for Water Control (no.)				
Water Catchment (no., ac.)				
Storage Tank (no., gal.)				
Trough (no., gal.)				
Pumping Plant (no.)				
Use Exclusion (ac.)				
Well (no.)				

## Prescribed Grazing Plan

### Authorized Use\*

Current authorized use on the ranch is for a total of \_\_\_\_ Animal Units Yearlong (AU/YL), or \_\_\_\_ Animal Unit Months (AUMs) broken down as follows:

Controlled Private	AUMs	AU Yearlong
National Forest	AUMs	AU Yearlong
BLM	AUMs	AU Yearlong
State Trust	AUMs	AU Yearlong
Tribal	AUMs	AU Yearlong

\* Specific information regarding forage allocations and any production data that is used to create a forage allocation should not be included in this document or any appendices or as an attachment to this plan. This information should remain in individual agency case files. Forage allocation based upon production data is too easily misinterpreted and should be used as a tool only.

Animal Kind	Planned Number	Planned Months/Year
Cows		
Bulls		
Yearlings		
Horses		
Sheep		
Lambs		
Other		

The grazing schedule shown below represents the initial planned movement and timing of the livestock herd. The actual time spent in each pasture along with the season of use will vary based upon unforeseen changes to the resource due to weather, drought, fire, etc.

[illegible]

Due to the annual variability in forage production resulting from yearly fluctuations in climate, it may be necessary to move livestock earlier or later than shown on the planned grazing rotation schedule. Describe any limitations on management flexibility and what communications need or do not need to take place in order to change the management plan. The rancher will keep records of when livestock were actually moved, and provide actual use information to the participating agencies each year. Describe what options are available to contend with prolonged drought.

## Monitoring Plan

Describe party responsibilities for monitoring and methods to be used. Methods selected should be based on attributes relevant to management goals and objectives.

The participants in this coordinated resource management plan agree to participate in annual monitoring on the ranch.

Key Area	Pasture	Sec T R	Method

## Plan Approval

We, the undersigned, have participated in the development of the Coordinated Resource Management plan, concur with the plan and those responsibilities assigned to us, and will act to implement it to the best of our ability.

Name	Representing	Date

## **Attachments**

List what attachments are included with the CRM plan on a page entitled "Appendices".

### **Plan Map(s)**

A base map consisting of:

- Pastures (including location of fencing, pasture number and name)
- Land Ownership
- Topography
- Section, Township and Range grid
- Scale and Legend

A layer map consisting of:

- Existing and planned improvements

A layer map consisting of:

- Special improvements or activities (prescribed burns, brush control, seeding)

### **Resource Inventory Map**

Include

- Ecological Site and/or TES Map

### **Appendix**

- Pasture Inventory and Assessment Sheets for each pasture (see attached example)
- Ecological Site and/or TES Descriptions
- Climate summary

### **Additional Information Needed Prior to Practice Installation\***

\*(These items are not to be included in this document)

- Conservation Practice Specifications
- Land management agency environmental clearances on federal lands
- NRCS Environmental Evaluation on non-federal lands
- Land management agency written approval to NRCS (or to the permit holder, with a copy sent to the NRCS), authorizing installing practices on federal lands

### **Additional Information Needed Upon Completion of Practice**

- Practice Measurement and Certification

### **Additional Information Needed Yearly**

- Annual Status Reviews
- Monitoring Summaries

# Pasture Inventory and Assessment

Complete this page for each pasture included within the plan.

Allotment \_\_\_\_\_

Pasture Number \_\_\_\_\_ Pasture Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total Pasture Acres \_\_\_\_\_

## Pasture Ownership Acres

Private Owned \_\_\_\_\_

Private Leased \_\_\_\_\_

Private Uncontrolled \_\_\_\_\_

State Trust \_\_\_\_\_

National Forest \_\_\_\_\_

BLM \_\_\_\_\_

Other Federal \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Pasture Resource Assessment

Major Landforms	Bottom Soils (Along streams and washes)	Upland Soils (Slopes <15% )	Slope Soils (Slopes >15%)
Landform Acres			
<b>Identify (x) Resource Concerns Present in the Pasture by Major Landform</b>			
Soil Erosion			
Soil Condition			
Water Quality			
Water Quantity			
Water Distribution			
Water Runoff/Flooding			
Plant Composition			
Plant Structure/Cover			
Plant Productivity			
Wildfire Hazards			
Listed Plants			
Wildlife Populations			
Wildlife Habitat			
Animal Health			
Listed Animals			
Cultural Resources			

Provide a brief narrative describing the resource concerns identified above.

## References

The following references are useful for rangeland conservation inventory and planning.

- Arizona CRM Handbook and Guideline (2010)
- CRMP Roles, Responsibilities and Timeline (2014)
- Guide to Rangeland Monitoring and Assessment, Basic Concepts for Collecting, Interpreting and Use of Rangeland Data for Management, Planning and Decisions- Arizona Grazing Lands Conservation Association (2012)
- Monitoring Manual for Grassland, Shrubland & Savanna Ecosystems-USDA ARS
- National Range & Pasture Handbook-USDA NRCS
- Principles of Obtaining and Interpreting Utilization Data on Southwest Rangelands-AZ 1375 (2005)
- Sampling Vegetation Attributes-ITR (1996)
- Some Methods for Monitoring Rangelands-UofA Cooperative Extension